



## Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Project October 22, 2013 Community Meeting

### Small Group Verbatim Responses

#### **Question #1: Our group believes the following issues should not be included on the preliminary issues list:**

- We don't think we should worry about benches or a cover over the channel. We need something big enough to handle a big flood
- All should be included, however, priority should emphasize #1 safety and #2 ditch design for neighborhood
- Do not cover Camp Creek. Make it a natural waterway just like Denver has done with Cherry Creek. It's used by the community. Treat our waterways like they are precious and inviting, not treated like a prohibited area
- Using reservoirs not necessary/efficient
- None
- Seems that "natural feel" along the ditch is a minor concern compared to handling the flow of water and keeping muck out of our homes. Will not "vegetation" and "a meandering stream" slow water flow? Seems unrealistic. A ditch is a ditch
- They should all be considered
- Any type of concrete tube or cover! Safety should not be on the list. We take our chances and wait to see if a 50- or 100-year flood even happens
- Build a raised structure over the ditch seems the silliest item there
- No deletions
- All issues seem important. Before the next meeting, please e-mail us to have more time to give better feedback
- None
- No guard rails
- All OK
- Construction, not at this time
- We would not eliminate any of these stated issues at this point
- It's not possible to use the existing reservoirs in Garden of the Gods because they're too high and won't work
- Tourist economy shouldn't be listed as a high priority. Consider functionality first and the aesthetics. Cultural history should be a low priority?

- Omit cultural history/resources as it is duplicated under Rock Ledge Ranch. Omit last item in history of area. Eliminate the views section—safety first
- Self-serving comments not necessary—see asterisk. (*Participant did not provide referenced comment*). All issues are important but safety is a priority. Functional, safe and beautiful
- Under the 31<sup>st</sup> Street Channel Design category, take out raised structure. Widening 31<sup>st</sup> Street under Traffic/Streets/Bridges would be a challenge. This statement seems confusing—how would it be done?
- No raised structure over the 31<sup>st</sup> Street part of Camp Creek. No retention ponds. No widening of 31<sup>st</sup> Street. No guard rails
- Covering the Creek or creating meandering Creek seems impractical

**Question #2: We believe the following issues are missing and should be added to the issues:**

- Maintenance: how will the project be maintained once complete?
- What about making more outlets to leave Pleasant Valley in case of a big flood?
- #1 Not extending 31<sup>st</sup> north to attach to Garden of the Gods, 30<sup>th</sup>, or other roads
- Wider bridge over Creek to get to Howbert School. Put in bridge just like the one on Rockledge Ranch just north of Chambers Way. Roundabouts at Water Street and Fontanero St. on 31<sup>st</sup>. Not red lights or stop signs. Put in wide speed bumps that meet up with bridge across Creek at Howbert. It would be safer for crossing guards
- Concern about special tax district, i.e. Pleasant Valley will be expected to cover the increased cost. Tourist tax for Garden of the Gods area? Don't forget Native American culture and previous studies. Getting in and out of Pleasant Valley in a big flood—traffic control plan in flood emergency getting in or out. Accountability—whose?
- A west side exit from the Valley? Fontanero to 32<sup>nd</sup> and Bijou?
- Re-route (water, sewer) drainage from west and east sides to reduce Camp Creek volume (drainage from Fontanero Street canyon.) Connect to Midland Trail (bike path)
- Recreational activities such as walking, hiking, biking, and kayaking. (Yes, there is kayaking in Camp Creek)
- Bike lanes and safety during construction and maintaining them later...there are tons of bikes on 31<sup>st</sup> as 30<sup>th</sup> is too fast and narrow. Fontanero – 31<sup>st</sup> Street is a terrible four-way stop intersection—can traffic flow/patterns be improved through construction? Many residents avoid driving this way. Only four access points to the neighborhood is a problem—for evacuation in future fires, for example
- Redefine the floodplain based on design that will reduce flood insurance. Not 5<sup>th</sup> access by extending 31<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> by Mother's Chapel. Safety—5<sup>th</sup> access to the west should be considered. How do water rights affect possible solutions? Consider re-establishing a wetland in place of the channel. Safety—prevent cars/people from falling in the channel. Create an improved trail experience—connect to Midland Trail
- Concern about Colorado Avenue bridge (about two blocks long) since the flow through the tunnel if blocked will affect all the way up. Now inadequate to handle the flow
- The issue of the flow patch just north of Chambers Way. The Chapel would need to be moved. The 'S' curve would need to be straightened
- 1. Curbs at Creek washed out. Needs immediate attention. 2. Channels through Park are shallow
- No more future drainage into ditch
- We didn't come up with anything missing from the list
- Consider impact of climate change. We need egress from the area from those areas west of 31<sup>st</sup>. ?Easement? Find ways to slow the flow of water before it goes through Pleasant Valley (catch basin). The 4-way stop will eventually need to be a light. Traffic and parking congestion, especially in the area of Howbert School

- Are the factors for resolving a flash flood the same as resolving a 110-year flood? Maintain a clear corridor through Pleasant Valley, i.e. ensure 31<sup>st</sup> is maintained. Utility modifications, i.e. water, gas, sewer. Establish a timeline for doing something? During this planning and designing phase, regularly maintain the ditch and culverts
- Is this project going to have an entryway to Garden of the Gods Park? Are there any pre-existing contracts between the Native Americans that can cause challenges to this project? Will construction work hours be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.? Will work/construction take place on weekends? Will you take into consideration the 1965 flood? Will there be a diversion pond close to Glen Eyrie? Any 31<sup>st</sup> Street channel design would need to be maintained and funded for the future? Flooding/drainage has not overtopped in the last 50 years. What are outside sources for funding, such as area developers and other business? Will there be a tax increase? Can we look at foundational (national) grants from organizations that support historic areas? Will there be a siren for safety?
- Timeline. Action step or Plan B if you don't get grant funding now. What's next step? Maintenance after the work is done. Multi-use trails connecting the important areas of Rock Ledge, Garden of the Gods
- Need to have planning regarding the underground springs that exist in the area. Please consider the drainage from Mesa Road down to 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Bridges over 31<sup>st</sup> to reach west side of Pleasant Valley need to be expanded for better flow
- American Indian site is currently located in a flood area and needs to be moved to higher ground. Trails need to be improved as well, and pedestrian bridges over the floodway
- Funding should include maintenance plan. Design plans should include separation of storm water and sewer. Access points across Creek need improvement. Repartition parking lane and bike lane, traffic lane area between road and sidewalk to allow bigger Creek with integrated bike path. Rock, rip-rap bottom is nicer than concrete bottom

**Question #3: Our group suggests the following criteria be used to evaluate alternative Camp Creek drainage improvement solutions:**

- We are concerned that the correct water flow is used so that the channel is built to handle a big flood
- #1: Safety and protection for homes and neighborhood  
#2: Fixing the flooding issues without impacting a heavier traffic flow for the neighborhood  
#3: Continue consideration of holding ponds north of Gateway Road  
#4: Resurface/reline ditch and explore increasing depth of ditch—higher curbs  
#5: Maintain parking ability on 31<sup>st</sup>
- Go with the flow of the Creek  
Make the sediment deposition area (alluvial fan) a natural reservoir  
Make it all natural again  
Ute Trail has blind spots and is dangerous to bike
- Safety  
Protect aesthetics, environment, property, Garden of the Gods  
Funding/cost  
Neighborhood and historic culture  
Minimize trail impact
- Retention ponds: have seen them work well in situations before
- Prevent flooding  
Safety  
Not destroy aesthetics of neighborhood
- Natural state—get rid of ALL the concrete and let Mother Nature return the natural state of the once-beautiful Camp Creek drainage
- Safety from flooding  
Sustainability—in materials purchase and of the design  
Safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. (Since on-street parking is a problem for bicycles, maybe on-street parking should go)  
Access to Rock Ledge Ranch and Garden of the Gods cannot be impeded during high tourist season  
Think that PV neighborhood was spared from flooding because the Creek was able to spread out north of Gateway Road and drop all of that sediment up there. How can we employ/ensure that sort of natural help again?
- On-street parking maintained on 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
Natural creek bed with bike bath—do not cover  
Elevate Gateway Road for natural berm/flood control

Access out of neighborhood

High consideration for Pleasant Valley neighborhood—view from Visitor Center is important but not at expense of safety for Pleasant Valley residents

- Improves property values

Aesthetically pleasing

Long-term solution

Sets benchmark for all COS storm water projects

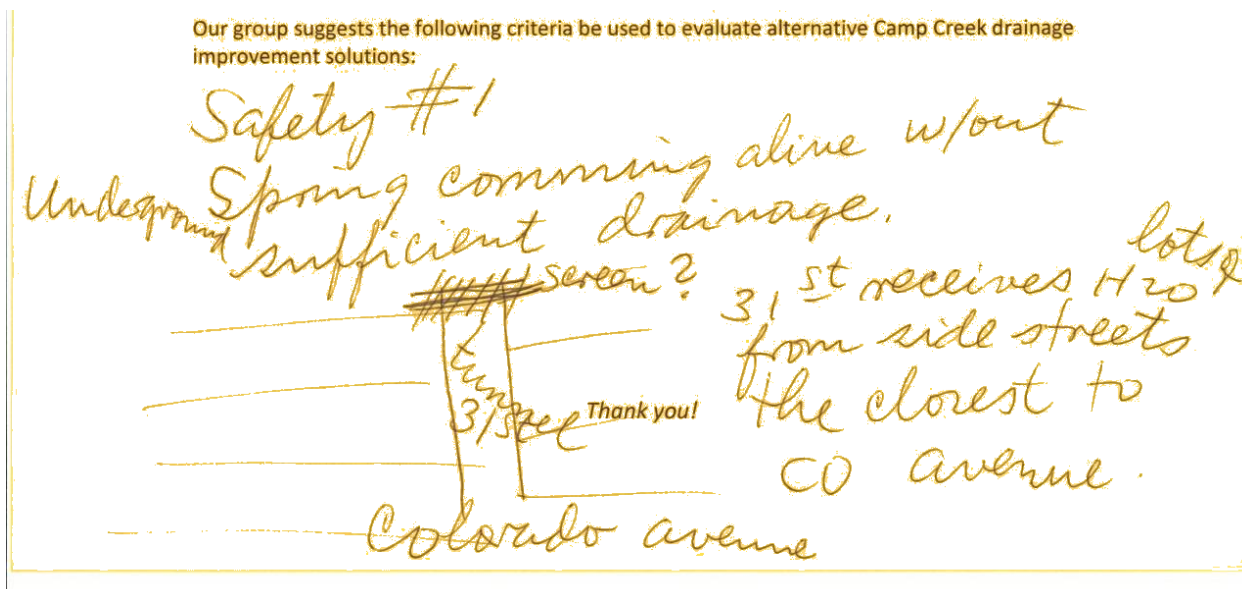
Improves community values

Does no harm

Best value, not lowest price

Technically acceptable

- Safety #1. Underground springs coming alive without sufficient drainage. 31<sup>st</sup> Street receives lots of water from side streets, the closest to Colorado Avenue. *(Drawing below also submitted on participant's form):*



- 1) Accommodating the flow to protect property
- 2) Return to pre-Waldo flood risk. Re-evaluate model
- 1. Flood mitigation
- 2. Safety
- 3. Aesthetics

- Respect Pleasant Valley homeowners
  - Prioritize
  - Maintain
  - Timelines
- Has to effectively protect Pleasant Valley and our property values
  - Has to do its job—safety. We are thinking more of a 100-year flood, rather than a 500-year flood
- 1. Safety of people, cars, animals
  2. Property value protection
  3. Aesthetics

As a City/County, we need more ongoing storm water management, not just individual major projects
- Find out from FEMA the following: 1. When was this area designated as a 100-year floodplain? 2. What criteria was used to make this designation? 3. What would have to be done to remove this 100-year floodplain designation? 4. Is FEMA aware that a ditch runs down the middle of Pleasant Valley and is designed for a 50-year flood?
- Any solution needs to incorporate:
  1. Safety
  2. Aesthetics for neighborhood and community
  3. Trails that make this a healthy community
- Please continue to hold community meetings and listen to their concerns
- Safety and function
  - Aesthetics
  - Cost
  - Maintain neighborhood character
  - Traffic impacts
- 1. Safety
  2. Flooding and drainage
  3. Funding
  4. Traffic/streets/bridges
  5. Design
  6. Community process
- Drainage function/capacity
  - Sediment issues
  - Aesthetics

Recreation

Property value/eliminate 100-year floodplain

Safety

Traffic congestion

Parking

Natural

Long-term maintenance/repair

- Improve and terrace the floodway, and deepen as well

Rip-rap and check structures on bottom

Higher curbs with more curb cuts to channel water into floodway

- 1. Flood mitigation and safety (keep Creek in banks)  
2. Cost-effective construction and maintenance  
3. Preservation of Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch site (beauty, culture, history)  
4. More mitigation higher (Queens Canyon)  
5. Pleasing aesthetics of 31<sup>st</sup> channel
- Maintainable

Functional

Aesthetic

- Re-route (water, sewer) drainage from west and east sides to reduce Camp Creek volume (drainage from Fontanero Street canyon.) Connect to Midland Trail (bike path)

**Additional comments:**

- Issues List (Preliminary):
  1. Safety
    - People
    - Property
  2. The top end of 31<sup>st</sup> Street where it connects with Rock Ledge Ranch needs to be improved
  3. What areas empty into Camp Creek, say from Mesa/Fontanero?
  4. Slowing the pace of the floodwater between Queens Canyon and Rock Ledge Ranch/31<sup>st</sup> St.
  5. Native American interests
  6. Creek at north end of 31<sup>st</sup> could be straightened
  7. Aesthetics should not be ignored, but beautification is not the top priority
  8. Pleasant Valley needs a secure exit point.